



Indiana State
Department of Health

Immunization E-Letter

Issue #286

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Start Planning for the 2008-2009 Influenza Season

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It is time to start planning for the upcoming 2008-2009 Influenza season. All Influenza orders should have been turned in to the Vaccines for Children Program. There are many resources available on-line that can provide up-to-date influenza recommendations and assist in the development of clinics.

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will offer Current Issues in Immunization NetConference: Seasonal Influenza Recommendations 2008-2009 on September 18, 2008 from 12 noon—1:00 pm. Register at www.cdc.gov/vaccines

- CDC has announced the week of December 8-14, 2008, as National Influenza Vaccination Week. This event is designed to highlight the importance of continuing influenza (flu) vaccination, as well as foster greater use of flu vaccine through the months of November, December and beyond. A Media Toolkit and Free Flu Resources are available at www.cdc.gov/vaccines

- Vote & Vax is a program developed to encourage influenza vaccination by offering convenient flu vaccinations simultaneously with the November elections at polling places across the country. Step-by-step guidance and free materials can be accessed at www.voteandvax.org. Vote & Vax will host a special Webinar on Wednesday, September 3, from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm to provide detailed information about this project and answer any questions. To register, please visit: <https://rwjf.webex.com/rwjf/onstage/g.php?d=575965111&t=a>



Immunization Program

2 N. Meridian St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Phone: (800) 701-0704
E-mail: immunize@isdh.in.gov

Reminder from CDC

This message is to clarify the restrictions on charging or receiving reimbursement for vaccines that are supplied through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). **All vaccine contracts negotiated by CDC include a clause that prohibits selling or being reimbursed for the cost of the vaccines.** This clause means that providers who receive vaccine purchased through any of CDC's contracts, such as the Vaccines for Children Program (VFC), cannot charge the patient, parent or insurance company for the cost of the vaccines. **This prohibition applies to the cost of the vaccine, not to the allowable administration fee for the vaccine.**

Inventory of Vaccines

All providers should complete periodic inventory on all vaccines. Make sure that stock is rotated and all short-dated vaccine is moved to the front of the storage unit for immediate use. If there are any vaccines that will expire soon, call your field representative at least 2 months before the expiration date, to have these vaccines transferred to another VFC provider. **Please do not attempt to move vaccine on your own. The transfer must be approved and only Indiana State Department of Health field staff are authorized to move vaccine.**

Indiana Immunization Conference 2008

The mission of the Indiana Immunization conference is to educate public and private immunization providers on the most current, comprehensive, and best practice in the field of immunizations.

Three one-day conferences are suitable for nurses, nurse practitioners, medical assistants, public health staff, physicians, physician assistants, medical and nursing students, and anyone interested in learning more about current immunization practice in Indiana.



Conference Dates:

10/6/2008

Holiday Inn Lakeview
505 Marriott Drive
Clarksville, IN 47129

10/8/2008

Indiana Government Center South
402 W Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

10/9/2008

Hilton Garden Inn
53995 State Road 933
South Bend, IN 46204

There is no registration fee to attend this conference.

Note: All three conferences will contain the same subject matter and will be repeated each day.

Registration for the 2008 Immunization Conference will begin on September 8, 2008. You can access the registration forms and obtain additional information on either the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) webpage at www.statehealth.in.gov or on the CHIRP webpage at www.chirp.in.gov. Instructions will be included and both electronic and faxed registrations will be accepted.

Upcoming Immunization from A to Z Trainings

Immunization from A to Z Training

Friday, September 12, 2008

8:00 am - 12:00 noon

Kings Daughter Hospital
One Kings Daughter's Drive
Madison, IN

Contact: Sharon Griffin, Educator

Phone: 317-670-8826

E-Mail: sgriffin@isdh.in.gov

Immunization from A to Z Training

Thursday, October 30, 2008

8:00 am - 12:00 noon

Elkhart County Health Department
608 Oakland Ave.
Elkhart, IN 46516

Contact: Jodi Morgan, Educator

Phone: 317-650-5051

E-Mail: jmorgan@isdh.in.gov

Measles Cases Continue Across the Country

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) announced last week that as of July 31, more measles cases have been reported in the United States than during the same period of any year since 1996. To date, 131 measles cases have been reported. Ninety-one percent of the cases were unvaccinated or had an unknown vaccination status. Of those eligible for vaccination (n = 95), 66% were unvaccinated due to philosophical or religious beliefs and 18% were unvaccinated due to missed opportunities or for unknown reasons.

As children return to daycare and school this month, the news serves as a reminder to remain vigilant about keeping children up-to-date on all immunizations. According to the CDC, measles is consistently one of the first diseases to reappear when immunization coverage rates fall. While ongoing measles transmission was declared eliminated in the U.S. in 2000, our global society, combined with failure to vaccinate, provides opportunities for measles to be reintroduced. Nearly 89% of the measles cases this year have resulted from unvaccinated individuals traveling to or returning to the United States from other parts of the world where they contracted the virus and later became infectious, thus introducing the highly contagious virus into pockets of other unvaccinated individuals where ongoing transmission can and has occurred.

Cases this year have been imported from Switzerland, Belgium, India, Germany, China, Pakistan, Russia, and the Philippines. Cases have been reported in Illinois (32 cases), New York (27), Washington (19), Arizona (14), California (14), Wisconsin (7), Michigan (4), Hawaii (5), Arkansas (2), and Washington, D.C., Georgia, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, and Virginia (1 each). Indiana has had no confirmed cases of measles this year to date, but the risk remains.

What Can You Do?

- Immunization providers and school health personnel should continue to encourage parents to vaccinate their children. Remind parents that while we don't often see serious vaccine-preventable diseases in the United States, the risk remains, as evidenced by the recent measles resurgence.
- Keep immunization records up-to-date. Should a suspect case occur in a school or childcare, you will be asked to identify students who are not up-to-date on immunizations for any reason. Per the Indiana Communicable Disease Rule, students who are not up-to-date on measles vaccine or who fail to obtain vaccination within 72 hours of exposure, shall be excluded until 14 days following the onset of the last reported case.
- If you suspect a case of measles, notify your local health department or the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) **immediately** at (317) 233-1325. Health department staff can assist with obtaining the appropriate specimens and implementing control measures. Note that it is preferred that specimens from suspect measles cases be sent to the ISDH lab.
- Isolate suspect cases and allow only healthcare workers with documented immunity (i.e. two doses of MMR or documented disease history) to enter the room. Susceptible persons (patients or staff) should not enter a room where a person with suspected measles was examined for two hours following his/her departure.

Clinical Picture – Measles

Measles virus is easily transmitted by respiratory droplets. Complications include pneumonia and encephalitis. The incubation period is 7 to 18 days, followed by a prodromal phase. The prodrome, which can last up to seven days, is characterized by:

- Fever of 101° F or higher
- Cough, coryza and conjunctivitis
- Koplik spots, a blue-white rash on the buccal mucosa

The maculopapular measles rash develops two to four days later and persists for up to six days. The rash begins at the hairline, involves the face, and then proceeds downward and outward to the hands and feet. It fades in the same pattern.

Measles is highly contagious from the prodrome until four days after rash onset.

Laboratory Criteria for Diagnosis

1. Acute serum specimen (collected 3-14 days following rash onset) IgM positive for measles.
2. Significant increase (four-fold) in IgG antibody level between the paired acute and convalescent serum specimens or seroconversion from negative IgG to positive IgG between the paired acute and convalescent serum specimens. The convalescent specimen should be collected 2 weeks following the acute specimen.
3. Isolation of measles virus from a nasopharyngeal or throat swab. The specimen should be collected within 7 days of rash onset.

Vaccine Storage and Handling - Appropriate Vaccine Storage Conditions

Live Vaccines

Live vaccines are sensitive to heat. MMRV, varicella, and zoster vaccines must be stored in a continuously frozen state in a freezer at 5°F (-15°C) or colder until administration. MMRV, varicella, and zoster vaccines deteriorate rapidly after they are removed from the freezer. Measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine (MMR) is routinely stored in the refrigerator, but it also can be stored in the freezer. The National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases recommends keeping MMR in the freezer along with MMRV, if adequate space is available. This may reduce the risk of inadvertent storage of MMRV in the refrigerator. **LAIV and rotavirus vaccines are also live virus vaccines, but they should be stored in the refrigerator. Do NOT store these vaccines in the freezer.**

Inactivated Vaccines

Inactivated vaccines are sensitive to both excessive heat and freezing. They should be stored in a refrigerator at 35° to 46°F (2° to 8°C), with a desired average temperature of 40°F (5°C). Exposure to temperatures outside this range results in decreased vaccine potency and increased risk of vaccine-preventable diseases. Inactivated vaccines may tolerate limited exposure to elevated temperatures, but they are cold sensitive and are damaged rapidly by freezing temperatures.

Vaccine Light Sensitivity

HPV, MMR, MMRV, rotavirus, varicella, and zoster vaccines are sensitive to light, which causes loss of potency. These vaccines must be protected from light at all times. Therefore, store these vaccines at the appropriate temperatures in their boxes with the tops on until they are needed.

CHIRP Tip

Internet Explorer constantly saves Website information that over time can slow down your computer's responsiveness on the Web. It's a good idea to periodically (i.e.: monthly) clear your browser's temporary Internet files. To do this in Internet Explorer (IE), click Tools, then Internet Options. If you use IE 7, click "Delete..." under Browsing History, then "Delete files." If you use IE 6 or earlier, simply click on "Delete files" from the Internet Options. If you have any questions or need assistance, call the CHIRP Helpdesk at 888-227-4439.

CHIRP Informational Sessions

CHIRP Informational Sessions are designed for NON-CHIRP users interested in learning more about the benefits of using CHIRP in their facility or practice.

Call (888) 227-4439 or go to CHIRP.IN.GOV to register.

September 30, 2008
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Allen County

Lutheran Hospital of Indiana
LH Function Room 3 & 4
7950 West Jefferson Blvd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46804

CHIRP User Group Meeting - For *Current* CHIRP Users

This session is designed for CURRENT CHIRP users who are interested in learning about upcoming changes or who have specific questions regarding CHIRP usage.

Call (888) 227-4439 or go to the CHIRP.IN.GOV to register.

September 30, 2008
9:30 am – 11:30 am

Allen County

Lutheran Hospital of Indiana
LH Function Room 3 & 4
7950 West Jefferson Blvd.
Fort Wayne, IN 46804

CHIRP Regional & Webinar Trainings

The classes will be online. Participants need only a computer with internet access and sound/speakers. All trainings require pre-registration. To register please call (888) 227-4439

Webinar – School Nurse Module
September 4 - 9am – 11:00am